United Nations E/C.2/2011/2/Add.7

Economic and Social Council

Distr.: General
28 October 2010

Original: English

Committee on Non-Governmental Organizations
2011 regular session
31 January-9 February 2011

Quadrennial reports for the period 2006-2009 submitted by non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council through the Secretary-General pursuant to Council resolution 1996/31

Note by the Secretary-General

Contents

		Page
1.	Asian Legal Resource Centre	2
2.	Associação de Mulheres Contra a Violência	3
3.	Association of Former Diplomats of China	4
4.	Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights	5
5.	Brazilian Foundation of America	7
6.	Canadian Race Relations Foundation	8
7.	Centre for the World Religions	9
8.	Delta Sigma Theta Sorority	10
9.	DiploFoundation	11
10.	Egyptian Organization for Human Rights	13
11.	Imamia Medics International	14
12.	Mujer para la Mujer	15
13.	National Center for State Courts	17
14.	Parliamentarians for Global Action	20

10-60867 (E) 281210

Please recycle

1. Asian Legal Resource Centre

General, 1998

I. Introduction

The Asian Legal Resource Centre, based in Hong Kong, China, was founded in 1986 and works to assist people in Asia to develop self-reliance and empowerment, through specific legal services and support programmes at the local level.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Asian Legal Resource Centre aims to promote awareness of rights and remedies under national, regional and international instruments; exchange expertise and experience among human rights organizations and legal resource groups in Asia; engage in research on human rights and provide legal resources in the region; promote the training of lawyers and paralegal workers; and promote the reform of institutions to increase their capacity. The Centre uses a victim-oriented approach, combined with work on structural reforms to prevent human rights abuses and to promote human rights; advocacy work through a community-based approach; and an international approach, taking direction from the United Nations, that is combined with regional- and country-based human rights legislation and rule of law. The Centre coordinates and shares information on legal initiatives in Asia; facilitates the exchange of legal resources in the field of human rights; provides information to the Asian Human Rights Commission; and promotes the Asian Human Rights Charter.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Centre has built on the work of its sister organization, the Asian Human Rights Commission, through regular workshops, meetings and training sessions and ensures the implementation of key United Nations international human rights instruments at the national level. The organization's main output focuses on the analysis and implementation of Member States' human rights obligations under article 2 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The Centre has participated in every session of the Human Rights Council held from 2006 to 2009 and submitted numerous statements.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The Centre communicates with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including the Human Rights Council's special procedures and treaty bodies, on

relevant cases. The Centre joined a coalition comprising many leading international human rights NGOs in 2008, and has submitted a number of reports concerning the consideration of States' human rights records under the universal periodic review process, created as part of the Human Rights Council.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1. The Centre's work focuses on the impact that the absence of the rule of law and the presence of defective criminal justice systems has on poverty.

III. Additional information

The Centre commemorates Human Rights Day by giving awards to victims of human rights abuses and commemorates also the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture.

2. Associação de Mulheres Contra a Violência

Special, 1998

I. Introduction

Associação de Mulheres Contra a Violência (Association of Women against Violence) is an independent and not-for-profit non-governmental organization that works within a human rights perspective.

A. Aims and purposes of the organization

The Association aims to: build resources with a feminist and human rights perspective for victims and survivors of violence and injustice; provide community services through advocacy and counselling centres; lobby and advocate for human rights and for the recognition of violence against women as gender-based violence in the political agenda at the international, regional, national and local levels; and empower women, young people and children through NGOs and various platforms.

B. Significant changes in the organization

The mission of the Association was changed by an amendment to its constitution approved by its general assembly on 20 November 2008, to include the promotion of human rights including the rights of women, young people and children.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Association promotes United Nations human rights goals at two levels: directly by participating in United Nations meetings and indirectly by participating at regional, national and local initiatives.

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The Association participated in meetings held at United Nations Headquarters, New York, during the fifty-second session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in 2008 and the fifty-third session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in 2009.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The Association collaborated in the survey of civil society organizations undertaken by the Human Development Report Office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 3. The Association promoted women's rights through the Portuguese Platform for Women's Rights which is a social, cultural and humanist non-governmental organization.

3. Association of Former Diplomats of China

Special, 2006

I. Introduction

The Association of Former Diplomats of China is composed of former Chinese ambassadors, counsellors and other diplomats, with a membership of over 2,500 individuals.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Association promotes cultural exchanges at home and abroad through such activities as forums and bazaars, in collaboration with foreign embassies in Beijing, representative offices of United Nations organizations and other international organizations based in the Chinese capital. It organizes activities to benefit women and children, to promote environmental protection and poverty alleviation and provide relief to victims of natural disasters. The Association also works with

non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council to promote such activities.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The Association attended the twenty-third session of the General Assembly of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations, held in Geneva in December 2007 and the side events organized by the China NGO Network for International Exchanges during the United Nations Climate Change Conference, held in Copenhagen in December 2009.

B. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Major actions taken by the Association were the following: (a) in support of Goal 2, the Association financed annual tuition fees for 1,059 school dropouts and needy students; and (b) in support of Goal 6, the Association provided assistance to 36 women with breast cancer.

C. Additional information

The Association made donations through charity sales for disaster relief of earthquake victims in Sichuan Province, China, in 2008. It also promoted the exchange of visits between the Association and the Association of Retired Ambassadors of Pakistan, in 2006, the Korean Council on Foreign Relations of the Republic of Korea, in 2009 and the Association of Russian Diplomats of the Russian Federation, also in 2009.

4. Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights

Special, 2006

I. Introduction

Badil Resource Center for Palestinian Residency and Refugee Rights is an independent, Palestinian, non-profit organization based in Bethlehem in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The Center works primarily in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and in the Middle East region.

A. Aims and purposes of the organization

The Center aims to end the forcible displacement of Palestinians, and seek rights-based, durable solutions and reparations for internally displaced persons through international law. Our mandate and mission is to empower and work with other civil society organizations and local, regional and international actors to further this aim. The Center's programme consists of three main components: capacity-building for communities, international outreach and support and research. The Center works with the Palestinian Non-Governmental Organizations Network, the Habitat International Coalition, the Child Rights Information Network, the European coordinating committee of NGOs on Palestine and the International Council of Voluntary Agencies, among others.

B. Significant changes in the organization

The Center has expanded its work to include improved community-level capacity-building initiatives.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Center's work includes: (a) research projects on the forced displacement of Palestinians, a survey of Palestinian refugees and internally displaced persons and studies on the role of international law in addressing the Palestinian refugee issue; (b) law courses for Palestinian students focusing on an international law-based approach to the Palestinian refugee question, including refugee law; and (c) a joint study by the Center and the Israeli association Zochrot for the practical implementation of the return of Palestinian refugees to their properties that are now located in Israel.

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The Center submits statements at sessions of the Human Rights Council every year. It co-organized side events at Council sessions in 2006 and in 2009. It contributed to the universal periodic review of Israel, held in Geneva in December 2008. In 2009, the Center briefed 10 special rapporteurs, in preparation for their combined report on Israel's military operations in the Gaza Strip. The Center attended, among other events, the International Conference on Palestinian Refugees, held at the headquarters of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) in Paris, on 29 and 30 April 2008 and the Annual Conference of the Department of Public Information for Non-Governmental Organizations commemorating the sixtieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, also held at the headquarters of UNESCO in September 2008.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

In December 2006, the Center facilitated the establishment of a technical working group on the Register of Damage and contributed to regular updates about the forced displacement of Palestinians to the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs for its monthly "Humanitarian Monitor". Since 2006, the Center has contributed to statements to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and participated in annual consultations between UNHCR and NGOs.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Through its work, the Center contributes to Goals 1, 7 and 8.

5. Brazilian Foundation of America

Special, 2006

I. Introduction

Brazilian Foundation of America provides benefits to Brazilian communities in the United States of America and abroad and assists other non-profit organizations in the United States, Brazil and other countries to set up and implement projects to aid children.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The Foundation works in partnership with educational NGOs, the private sector and individuals to implement self-sustaining programmes, in the form of work cooperatives or associations, and to share these programmes with other organizations. The organization aims to further charitable activities and promote education, sports and other activities through grants, funding and financial assistance to various individuals, institutions and organizations.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The Foundation participated in several conferences at the United Nations in New York. In partnership with the Permanent Mission of Honduras to the United Nations, the Foundation, with the Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Organization, organized two summits, in June 2009, on the development of new technologies and sustainability.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The Foundation is working with the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), in Brazil, to install an irrigation system in the desert of Ceará.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goals 1 and 2. The Foundation is providing at least one meal a day for kids in school.

Goal 3. The Foundation provides training to poor communities in such skills as cooking, baking, arts and crafts and soap making, in order to enable women to become self-sufficient.

Goals 4 and 5. The Foundation organized medical clinics in the local communities.

Goal 6. The Foundation is working with local municipal agencies to organize workshops on preventing malaria, HIV/AIDS and other diseases. On HIV/AIDS, the Foundation works with the local hospitals in Fortaleza, Brazil, and distributes condoms.

Goals 7 and 8. The Foundation is working in collaboration with UNEP and the Intergovernmental Renewable Energy Organization to implement projects on environmental sustainability.

6. Canadian Race Relations Foundation

Special, 2002

I. Introduction

The Canadian Race Relations Foundation was created by the Government of Canada in 1996 to reaffirm the principles of justice and equality for all in Canada.

A. Aims and purposes of the organization

The purpose of the Foundation, as defined by the Canadian Race Relations Foundation Act 1991, is to facilitate throughout Canada the development, sharing and application of knowledge and expertise in order to contribute to the elimination of racism and all forms of racial discrimination in Canadian society. The Foundation (a) undertakes research and data collection on racial issues; (b) provides information about race relations to public, private and educational institutions and libraries; (c) facilitates consultations on race relations policies, programmes and research; (d) promotes race relations training in the development of professional standards; (e) increases public awareness of racism and racial discrimination; and (f) collaborates with business, labour, voluntary, community and other organizations, as well as all levels of government, in instituting and supporting programmes and activities.

B. Significant changes in the organization

The Foundation has suspended a number of initiatives on community organizations and research projects, due to financial restrictions, but introduced a new programme in 2009, focusing on partnerships with the Canadian Human Rights Commission, the Ontario Human Rights Commission and the National Film Board of Canada.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

None, owing to financial limitations.

B. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 3. The Foundation supported the production of a video documentary as part of the Women's Intercultural Network project, by recording the experiences of women immigrants. The video was developed as an educational tool for high school students. The Foundation is undertaking research on immigrant women negotiating Canadian work cultures, to unveil how issues of race and gender influence employment opportunities for immigrant women.

7. Centre for the World Religions

Special, 2002

I. Introduction

Centre for the World Religions has 45,987 members from 15 countries. The majority of the funding is raised through membership fees and donations from individuals, groups and national chapters.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organizational aims focus on universal brotherhood, global spirituality, love in action, love in spirit and sharing religious cultural activities. The Centre's work includes supporting the following: a needy person care programme (Sunset Project), an eye hospital (lens operations), mobile hospitals, elementary education (free education), a pollution control unit, reforesting initiatives, tree-planting camps with 50,000 trees planted per year, the distribution of free food and clothes, a retreat centre for interfaith studies in Germany, conferences and the publication of magazines and books.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The Centre undertakes the following actions: awareness-building through peace initiatives related to the work of the United Nations, countering religious extremism through interfaith research, dialogue and spiritual practice and poverty eradication. The Centre seeks to contribute to the ongoing dialogue between religion and science through the meditation research project. The organization also has a programme on malaria prevention in Ghana.

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The Centre has attended NGO briefings at the United Nations Headquarters, communications workshops on expanding outreach and communications by partnering with UNESCO and the Town Hall Meeting of the sixty-second Annual Conference of the Department of Public Information for Non-Governmental Organizations.

B. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

The Sunset Project for the elderly and needy people in India, Nepal and Pakistan, including the provision of free clothing, food and medicines for 25,000 people, is an example of the Centre's work in line with the Goals. Between 2007 and 2009, the Centre took part in panel discussions at global warming seminars held in Austria, Germany, India, the Netherlands, Switzerland and the United States.

8. Delta Sigma Theta Sorority

Special, 2002

I. Introduction

Delta Sigma Theta Sorority, the single largest African-American women's organization in the United States, is a private, non-profit organization whose purpose is to provide assistance and support through established programmes in communities throughout the world.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

In 2009, the Sorority contributed to the work of the United Nations through Delta Day at the United Nations by sponsoring a symposium on an overview of the global aspects of violence against women in a human rights crisis.

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The Sorority participated in meetings of the United Nations Commission on the Status of Women, during the reporting period. Representatives of the Sorority also participated in the sixty-first Annual Conference of the Department of Public Information for Non-Governmental Organizations held in Paris, from 3 to 5 September 2008.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The Sorority works extensively with the Commission on the Status of Women, the United Nations Foundation and United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM).

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 2. In December 2009, a delegation of members and supporters travelled to South Africa and Swaziland to support the Sorority's educational efforts in the region.

Goal 5. The Sorority actively provides financial and other support to Mary Help of the Sick Mission Hospital, Kenya, where it provides affordable prenatal and post-natal care, nutritional education, child immunization and family planning.

9. DiploFoundation

Special, 2006

I. Introduction

DiploFoundation is a non-profit organization based in Malta, with offices in Geneva and Belgrade.

A. Aims and purposes of the organization

The mission of the Foundation is to strengthen the meaningful participation of all stakeholders, particularly from developing and least developed countries, in diplomatic practice and international relations. Its activities include training, education and capacity-building programmes. From 2006 to 2009, 1,019 participants from 180 countries around the world participated in the Foundation's online courses. The research work focuses on contemporary topics in diplomacy.

B. Significant changes in the organization

The Foundation signed a memorandum of understanding with the Governments of Malta, Mexico and Switzerland to initiate online diplomatic training.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

Activities included: a workshop on managing multilateral complexities for certain permanent missions to the United Nations Office at Geneva; an online course on diplomacy; and the Internet governance capacity-building programme, based on an online course. The Foundation hosted an international conference on climate change diplomacy in Malta, in February 2008.

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The Foundation sponsored information and communications technology (ICT) specialists from developing countries to attend the inaugural meeting of the United Nations Global Alliance for Information and Communication Technologies and Development, held in Kuala Lumpur in June 2006; conducted workshops at the Internet Governance Forum, held in Athens in October and November 2006, in Hyderabad, India, in December 2008, and in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt in November 2009; and attended the first International Telecommunication Union regional forum on the information and communications technology sector, in October 2009.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The Foundation (a) conducted a training course on Internet governance in collaboration with the Economic Commission for Africa, in Addis Ababa, in 2006; (b) delivered a presentation at an ICT for Development conference, in Tallinn, in 2006, organized by UNDP; (c) signed an agreement with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to jointly deliver a capacity-building course on a universal legal framework against terrorism in 2008; and (d) worked with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) to deliver three capacity-building programmes on international cooperation to counter terrorism.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 7. The Foundation launched a climate change capacity development programme to help small and developing States to participate meaningfully in climate change.

Goal 8. The Foundation implemented a Roma diplomacy capacity development project, with the European Roma Information Office, in order to facilitate the sharing of information and research between the Roma and human rights activists.

19. Egyptian Organization for Human Rights

Special, 2006

I. Introduction

The Egyptian Organization for Human Rights was founded in 1985 and is one of the oldest non-governmental organizations in Cairo. The organization has a national membership of 2,300 people and 17 provincial branches located throughout Egypt.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization is a non-profit NGO working within the framework of the principles established in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and all other international human rights instruments, regardless of the identity or the affiliation of the victim(s) or of the violator(s). It acts against both governmental and non-governmental human rights violations. The organization is part of the international and Arab human rights movement and cooperates with the United Nations and its bodies concerned with human rights, as well as international and regional organizations for human rights. The organization adopts peaceful methods to promote and defend human rights.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization took action in the following ways: (a) in November 2009, the organization called upon the Government to implement the recommendations of the United Nations Special Rapporteur on terrorism and human rights; and (b) in August 2009, the organization presented a report on the human rights situation in Egypt to the universal periodic review of the Human Rights Council.

Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The organization participated in: (a) the United Nations third biennial meeting of States to consider the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, held in New York in July 2008, and delivered an oral statement on the effect of small weapons on the human rights situation in Egypt; and (b) the twelfth session of the Human Rights Council, in Geneva, in 2009, and presented a written intervention on poverty and economical rights in Egypt.

11. Imamia Medics International

Special, 2006

I. Introduction

Imamia Medics International serves disadvantaged communities internationally by providing low- or no-cost access to quality health care, public health information and humanitarian relief to regions affected by disaster and crisis.

A. Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization aims to conduct research in health care and education and provide medical relief during emergencies.

B. Significant changes in the organization

The organization's membership has expanded to various cities of India, Iraq, Ireland, Pakistan and the United States.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization has regularly participated in intergovernmental forums at the United Nations.

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Representatives attended and participated at several events held at United Nations Headquarters, among which: (a) the Civil Society Development Forum of the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations, in October 2009; (b) the meeting of the Peacebuilding Commission Working Group on lessons learned, in May 2009; (c) annual sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women; and (d) Department of Public Information briefings for NGOs. In Geneva, the organization attended the 2009 high-level segment of the Economic and Social Council from 6 to 9 July 2009.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization co-sponsors events and meetings with United Nations representatives.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1. The organization provided medical education and training to 5,800 individuals in the medical field, nutritional care to 9,468 children and nutritional training to 18,900 mothers and caregivers.

Goal 3. The organization provided medical education and training for 2,200 women.

Goal 4. The organization designed a programme for infants and children with developmental disabilities in Iraq.

Goal 5. A total of 25,000 expectant mothers were given prenatal care and 126,240 community midwives were trained with the support of the organization.

Goal 6. The organization established 3,200 free HIV/AIDS screening, treatment and counselling camps, as well as cardiac screening and treatment camps for 4,800 people.

Goal 8. The organization provided medical education for 2,800 youths and organized free screening and treatment camps at community-based centres and the organization's own clinics.

12. Mujer para la Mujer

Special, 2006

I. Introduction

Mujer para la Mujer was born as a response to the issues currently faced by women, such as violence, poverty, family disintegration and lack of opportunities. The organization works to develop programmes and activities that drive and foster women's equitable and active participation in their environment, and that protect women from the risks of alcoholism, drug addiction, undesired pregnancies and domestic violence and promote human rights.

Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization aims to work with women who are in vulnerable situations, the purpose is to encourage women's participation in different social environments and to grant them the necessary means to achieve this. The activities focus on:

(a) a centre for women in urban areas, which assists women in vulnerable situations by organizing self-improvement courses to prevent domestic violence and workshops to foster self-employment and economic self-sufficiency;

(b) a centre for women in rural areas in the municipality of Tapalpa, Jalisco, Mexico, to provide access to services for female heads of household. The Centre organizes workshops to train women on potential income-earning activities based in their homes by using natural resources and raw materials from the region and to help women to form cooperatives, focusing on the production of marmalades, baked goods and handicrafts, all of which are supported by public-private partnerships;

(c) Collaboration with the mass media, with the purpose of highlighting women-focused issues and promoting women as opinion leaders.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization is concerned about the well-being of women in Mexico, in particular those who are vulnerable to situations of violence or victims of violence. It has organized conferences and meetings to inform the public about its work and shed light on the plight of women through participation in various conferences of the United Nations. It has established, for this purpose, a coalition with other non-governmental organizations, in order to generate greater momentum and action on these issues and has advised other Mexican NGOs to apply for consultative status with the Economic and Social Council, such as Misión Mujer and Vida y Familia de Guadalajara.

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

Representatives of the organization: (a) attended the fifty-first session of the Commission on the Status of Women, held in New York in February and March 2007; (b) lobbied delegates of different countries at the fifty-second session of the Commission, held in New York in February and March 2008 and at the fifty-third session of the Commission, also held in New York, in March 2009; (c) participated in the ninety-third session of the Human Rights Committee, held in Geneva, in July 2008; (d) attended the meeting of the NGO Committee on the Status of Women, held in Vienna in November 2008; and (e) participated in a meeting of the Subcommittee of Experts on the Transport of Dangerous Goods at its thirty-fourth session, held in Geneva, in December 2008.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization visited the office of UNIFEM in Mexico City, in order to introduce its work and to explore opportunities for closer collaboration with UNIFEM.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1. Specific programmes were designed for diverse communities of the municipality of Tapalpa, Jalisco, in which women were trained in such skills as bottling jam, preparing canned foods and marketing them both within and outside of the municipality. The total number of persons who benefited from such programmes was recorded as 394 women (directly) and 369 families (indirectly).

Goal 2. Programmes were designed to motivate parents and women who attend the centres, both in urban and rural areas, to prevent their children from dropping out of school. A total of 397 children benefited directly, and through them, 149 families benefited indirectly.

Goal 3. At schools, universities, conferences and institutes, the organization designed and organized courses, workshops and forums on the topic of gender equality and the empowerment of women, and provided support to governmental institutions to disseminate such programmes.

Goal 5. The organization promoted free health fairs for all beneficiaries of the centres and provided medical referrals for women, when required. In addition, the organization designed conferences and training courses on health issues, which were implemented by a group of nutritionists. A total of 394 women benefited from this initiative.

13. National Center for State Courts

Special, 2006

I. Introduction

The National Center for State Courts is a private, non-profit organization. It was founded 40 years ago to share information about and advocate for organizational and technical innovations in judicial systems throughout the United States and in developing countries. The Center serves as the secretariat to almost all professional associations providing support to the United States' state court systems. Launched in 1992, the international outreach of the Center (NCSC International) applies the expertise it has developed during its four decades of practical experience in promoting independent, transparent and efficient judiciaries to assist counterparts abroad in implementing the full range of interventions encompassed by justice sector modernization efforts, through technical assistance and consulting services, training programmes and information dissemination. NCSC International has implemented projects in over 30 countries, funded by individual Governments, as well as by the United States Agency for International Development, the Bureau of International Narcotics and Law Enforcement Affairs of the Department of State of the United States, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Department for International Development of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and UNDP.

Aims and purposes of the organization

NCSC International has worked in countries with civil and common law systems, Sharia-based systems and traditional settlement systems. The International Visitors Educational Programme is an important part of NCSC International. The programme hosts 300 to 500 judges and justice system officials annually. It provides training through a combination of briefings and seminars on the United States justice system, including through in-depth courses and study tours. In addition to maintaining its core competencies in court administration and judicial reform, NCSC International engages in broader justice sector interventions, including those in fragile States with weak or divided democratic institutions, through a results-oriented and highly participatory approach involving stakeholders in analysing problems, setting priorities and selecting sustainable solutions. The Center has a number of tools, including a software system, CourTools, that can be customized to provide justice

system agencies with quick assistance that builds upon international lessons and standards in a way that fits local conditions. Furthermore, the Center developed a platform for an integrated, automated court case management system for the rapid implementation of customized case management functions, that can be implemented on a single-server personal computer, or through a Web-based application service. Another tool that courts worldwide can use to assess and improve the quality and administration of justice is the International Framework for Court Excellence. The Framework was developed over an 18-month period by a multinational consortium that includes the National Center for State Courts, the Federal Judicial Center, the Australasian Institute of Judicial Administration and the Subordinate Courts of Singapore, with assistance from the European Commission for the Efficiency of Justice, Spring Singapore and the World Bank.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

A staff representative of the Center attended the sixteenth session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, held from 23 to 27 April 2007 in Vienna, and served as a panel member for an NGO discussion on United Nations standards and norms. The session was jointly organized by the International League for Human Rights and the National Center for State Courts.

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

A representative of the Center attended the sixty-first annual conference of the Department of Public Information for Non-Governmental Organizations on the theme "Reaffirming human rights for all: The Universal Declaration at 60", held from 3 to 5 September 2008 in Paris.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

From 2006 to 2009, the Center worked with the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti to conduct a range of justice sector strengthening activities. These activities included: (a) developing prosecutor guidelines and training prosecutors in every jurisdiction of the country on the guidelines; (b) supporting court clerks in drafting legislation regulating the status of their profession; and (c) developing a criminal case registry and tracking system; and establishing a programme to provide legal aid to the indigent. The Center's Kosovo Justice Support Program 2007-2010, funded by the United States Agency for International Development, maintains regular communication and coordinated efforts with UNDP and other donor agencies to serve minority communities.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 2. The Kosovo Justice Support Program developed colouring books for students in primary school. Model courts under the Program will be able to disseminate around 5,000 copies of the colouring book series.

Goal 3. The Center's rule of law project for strengthening the independence of the judiciary and citizen access to justice in Lebanon, funded by the United States Agency for International Development, provides technical assistance to judicial training institutes, courts and bar associations in Lebanon. In addition, the Center's small grants programme supports an association for universities in Lebanon that organizes advocacy campaigns to educate women who are victims of abuse about their rights and is opening an office to provide legal advice. The Kosovo Justice Support Program worked with the Kosovo Judges Association, the Kosovo Chamber of Advocates and the Kosovo Public Prosecutors' Association to develop strategic plans to increase the participation of minorities and women in the justice system. From 2007 to 2009, the Center led the efforts of Project Passport, a United States programme with funding from the Office on Violence Against Women of the Department of Justice, to define the essential elements of a domestic violence protection order and to establish protocols for the automated exchange of this information across state and jurisdictional lines. In 2009, the Center established the Jane Bolin Fellowship, in collaboration with the College of William and Mary to support the advancement of women and racial and ethnic minorities in the field of law and judicial administration.

Goal 4. The Center advocates for United States legislation in the following areas: an international treaty for the enforcement of child support and other forms of family maintenance; improvement of the handling of domestic violence cases by the courts; court oversight of abuse and neglect cases; and efforts to find safe and stable homes for children who have entered the foster care system.

Goal 6. In conjunction with the United States Bureau of Justice Assistance, the Center developed a resource guide for courts to ensure continuity of operations during natural disasters and pandemics.

Goal 7. In 2009, the Center developed the guide to "green" courthouses and provided that information to the National Association for Court Management, whose national and international members manage courts throughout the United States and the world.

Goal 8. The Center's rule of law project (for strengthening the independence of the judiciary and citizen access to justice) in Lebanon, has partnered with the Beirut court system to improve court administration practices and procedures for enforcing judgements.

14. Parliamentarians for Global Action

General, 1998

I. Introduction

Parliamentarians for Global Action was established in 1978 in Washington, D.C., by legislators from Canada, France, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States, to bring into force an international treaty against nuclear testing and to support the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons by working closely with the United Nations multilateral system. The organization informs, convenes and mobilizes parliamentarians in support of the United Nations through its work in population, development, peace and international law.

A. Aims and purposes of the organization

The organization promotes its mission for peace, democracy, the rule of law, human rights, sustainable development and population issues by informing, convening and mobilizing parliamentarians to realize these goals. Its projects and programmes focus on important global issues that no country acting alone can resolve. The organization generates consensus among lawmakers on treaties and their implementation, in terms of such issues as reproductive health, HIV/AIDS, disarmament, international justice and the environment. In its methodology, the promotion of international treaties and political agreements is achieved by legislators working with Governments, experts and parliamentary staff in close liaison with the United Nations and civil society. The organization has worked to enhance the work of existing official parliamentary bodies and to create new parliamentary initiatives at the national, regional and international levels.

B. Significant changes in the organization

Between 2006 and 2009, the organization welcomed new members from Bahrain, Chad, the Comoros, the Cook Islands, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Kiribati, the Republic of Korea, Lebanon, Liberia, Malawi, Micronesia (Federated States of), Nicaragua, Oman, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Saint Lucia and Vanuatu. As of January 2007, provincial legislators have become eligible to apply for membership. This will enable the organization to expand its membership base while also undertaking advocacy work at the local level. Also in 2007, the organization established a foundation in The Hague, the Netherlands, to strengthen its work with international judicial institutions.

II. Contribution of the organization to the work of the United Nations

The organization contributed by: (a) organizing a meeting on the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness, entitled "The role of parliamentarians in achieving alignment: health and economic growth in the Americas", held in Washington, D.C., in May

2008; (b) submitting recommendations at the third High-Level Forum on Aid Effectiveness, held in Accra, in September 2008; (c) conducting a seminar on peacebuilding and arms and the new Peacebuilding Commission, in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of the Philippines to the United Nations, in June 2006; (d) organizing regional parliamentary workshops on small arms and light weapons, held in Dakar in February and March 2006 and in Tbilisi in June 2006, as part of joint projects with UNDP on building the capacity of national parliaments to effectively address small arms issues; (e) convening its thirty-first annual forum, on the environment and energy management, held at the United States Congress, in Washington D.C., in October 2009, in collaboration with UNEP; (f) participating at the eighth and ninth International Congress on AIDS in Asia and the Pacific, held in Colombo, in August 2007 and in Bali, Indonesia, in August 2009; (g) convening its twenty-eighth annual forum, on human security, and the fourth session of the Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the International Criminal Court, held in Tokyo in December 2006, its thirtieth annual forum, on strengthening democratic institutions, accountability and the rule of law, and the fifth session of the Consultative Assembly of Parliamentarians for the International Criminal Court, held in Santo Domingo, in October 2008.

A. Participation in the Economic and Social Council and its subsidiary entities

The organization participated at the 2006 United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. In October 2007, it participated at the United Nations High-level Dialogue on Financing for Development, held at United Nations Headquarters, and at a satellite round-table event on financing for development. In December 2007, the organization sent a delegation to the third meeting of the States parties to the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, held at United Nations Headquarters, and to a satellite round-table discussion on the theme of "Migrant workers, their families and their health: how can Governments work together to address this issue?", held at the headquarters of the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), New York. In October 2009, the organization participated in the International Parliamentarians Conference on the Implementation of the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development, held in Addis Ababa, and organized by UNFPA. In December 2009, a delegation from the organization attended the fifteenth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Copenhagen.

B. Cooperation with United Nations bodies

The organization received annual funding from UNFPA and cooperated with the Fund from 2006 to 2009 on sustainable development, health and population programmes. In 2006, the organization received funding from UNDP and the World Health Organization for its work to address HIV/AIDS policy in South Asia. It has participated in parliamentary conferences, steering committees and strategy meetings organized by UNFPA, from 2006 to 2009, to implement the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development. The

organization co-hosted workshops in New York, in 2008 and 2009, with the Permanent Missions to the United Nations of France, Mexico and the Netherlands.

C. Activities in line with the Millennium Development Goals

Goal 1. The organization's twenty-ninth annual forum, on the theme "Poverty and unemployment: root causes of migration", was held in Abuja in November 2007. Members addressed the ratification of conventions to protect the human labour rights of all migrants and urged support for international standards and agreements on preventing, eradicating and punishing the trafficking and enslavement of humans.

Goal 3. The organization participated in a regional seminar on the International Criminal Court and gender justice, held in Santiago in March 2007. The organization also held a strategy session on women's empowerment, in Washington D.C., in October 2009, in order to engage women legislators on the Millennium Development Goals, reproductive health, the economic empowerment of women and legal rights. The organization's work in Pakistan in 2009 focused on restoring education for girls in Swat.